



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): BURTON, Scott et al.) Group Art Unit: 1615
Serial No.: 10/729,114)
Filed: 5 December 2003) Examiner: GHALI, Isis A.D.
For: WOUND DRESSINGS AND METHODS) Confirmation No.: 3162

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed 12 April 2007, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I (claims 1-18, and 21), drawn to a wound dressing. Applicants reserve the right to pursue examination of the non-elected claims in continuation or divisional applications.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement. More particularly, for reasons set forth below, rejoinder of claims 19, 20, 22, and 23 is respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the inventions as claimed can be readily evaluated in one search without placing undue burden on the Examiner. That is, all the claims are so interrelated that a search of one group of claims will reveal art to the others.

Applicants submit that restriction between inventions I, II, and III is improper, because claim 1 is a generic to claims 19 and 20 such that claims 19 and 20 recite all of the language of claim 1. Claim 1 recites "a wound dressing comprising an apertured liquid permeable substrate and an absorbent, nonadherent polymer composition" and "an optional plasticizing agent" that is common to claims 19, 20, and claims dependent therefrom. Additionally, claim 1 recites "a hydrophobic organic polymer matrix" that includes the

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"hydrophobic organic polymer matrices" further specified in claims 19, 20, and claims dependent therefrom, as evidenced by claim 2. Furthermore, claim 1 recites "hydrophilic organic microparticles" that include the microparticles further specified in claims 19, 20, and claims dependent therefrom, as evidenced by claims 9 and 12.

Were restriction to be effected between the claims of Groups I, II, and III, a separate examination of the claims in these three groups would require substantial duplication of work on the part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. More particularly, the scope of analysis of novelty of all the claims of Groups I, II, and III would have to be as rigorous as when only the claims of Group I, for example, were being considered by themselves. Clearly, this duplication of effort would not be warranted where these claims are so interrelated.

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The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"-service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature: M. S. Willis
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Date of Deposit: 8 May 2007

May 8, 2007
Date

Respectfully submitted By

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